

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1, 17, 20, 22 and 26-28, all without prejudice, as follows:

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1. (Currently amended) A portion of an [An] open top gravity flow liquid transport canal having a length providing a direction of flow and edges providing a width and having therein a plastic liner comprising a series of sections secured together at field made joints extending transverse to the length of the canal, each section comprising a continuous impermeable unpunctured membrane extending beyond the edges of the canal and across the canal width and extending from an upstream end toward a downstream end along a length of the canal for minimizing leakage from the canal and at least one tab between the liner and the canal and a series of fasteners extending through the tab having a head between the tab and the liner, each section being free of field made joints extending along the length of the canal.

2. (Original) The canal of claim 1 wherein the canal includes a concrete liner.

3. (Original) The canal of claim 2 wherein a hole is drilled into the concrete liner and the fastener is driven into the hole.

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4. (Original) The canal of claim 3 wherein the fastener is a fluted nail.

5. (Original) The canal of claim 3 wherein the fastener is a concrete screw.

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6. (Previously amended) The canal of claim 1 wherein the canal has a bottom and first and second side walls and a first tab extends along the length of the canal adjacent the bottom, a second tab extends along the length of the canal adjacent the first side wall and a third tab extends along the length of the canal adjacent a second side wall and wherein the fasteners extend through each tab at spaced intervals along the length of the canal.

7. (Original) The canal of claim 6 wherein the tabs have a first end connected to the plastic liner and a second free end, the second free ends of the second and third tabs being above the first ends.

8. (Original) The canal of claim 1 wherein the plastic liner has a tear strength above 100 pounds force.

9. (Original) The canal of claim 8 wherein the plastic liner has a fiber mesh embedded therein.

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10. (Original) The canal of claim 9 wherein the plastic liner is of a thermoplastic material sealable by heat and pressure.

11. (Original) The canal of claim 10 wherein the tab is of the same material as the liner.

12. (Original) The canal of claim 1 wherein the canal is earthen.

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13. (Original) The canal of claim 12 wherein the anchoring means includes an anchor extending into the earth and means connecting the fastener to the anchor.

14. Cancelled

15. (Original) The canal of claim 1 wherein the canal is excavated from the earth.

16. (Original) The canal of claim 1 wherein the canal is in a dike elevated above the surrounding area.

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17. (Currently amended) [An] A portion of an open top gravity flow liquid transport canal having a wall and a length providing a direction of flow; an impermeable, imperforate plastic liner having a first side juxtaposed to the wall and a second side exposed to liquid in the canal; and a series of fasteners on the first side of the liner connecting the liner to the canal wall, at least a substantial number of the fasteners being in an area where the liner is continuous in all directions before a fastener is installed, the plastic liner comprising a series of sections secured together at field made joints extending transverse to the length of the canal and being free of field made joints extending along the length of the canal.

18. (Original) The canal of claim 17 wherein the canal includes a concrete liner.

19. (Original) The canal of claim 17 wherein the canal is earthen.

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20. (Currently amended) The method of lining an open top gravity flow liquid transport canal having a length providing a direction of flow, comprising

providing a plurality of one-piece plastic liner sections having ends spaced along the length of the canal and sides providing a width wider than the canal and at least one tab on a first side of the liner intermediate the sides and ends of the liner sections, the sections being free of field made joints extending along the length of the canal; then

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placing the liner sections in the canal so the first and second ends are spaced apart along the length of the canal and then placing the tab adjacent the canal;

then anchoring the liner to the canal including driving at least one fastener through the tab; and then

placing the sides of the liner over a top of the sides of the canal; and

connecting the ends of adjacent liner sections together with field made joints.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the canal is concrete lined and the anchoring step comprises drilling a pilot hole into the concrete and then driving the fastener into the pilot hole.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the plastic liner is rolled up in a width less than the width of the canal and the placing step comprises unrolling the plastic liner in the canal and attaching a first tab to the bottom of the canal; and then

unfolding a section of the plastic liner and placing the section on a side of the canal and attaching a second tab to the side of the canal.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the unrolling step including placing the first tab on a centerline of the canal bottom.

24. (Previously added) The canal of claim 1 wherein the liner has sides extending in the same direction as the canal and there are at least three tabs extending along the length of the liner, at least one of the tabs being spaced from the sides of the liner before the installation of a fastener.

25. (Previously added) An open top gravity flow liquid transport earthen canal having therein an impermeable plastic liner providing at least one tab between the liner and the canal and a series of anchors extending into the earth in a path along a length of the canal, a member connected between adjacent anchors and a series of fasteners extending through the tab and the member at spaced intervals along the length of the canal and having a head between the tab and the liner.

26. (Currently amended) An open top gravity flow liquid transport canal having a length providing a direction of flow and having therein an impermeable plastic liner and at least three spaced apart tabs between the liner and the canal and a series of fasteners extending through the tabs having a head between the tab and the liner for anchoring the liner to the canal, at least part of one of the tabs being in an area where the liner is continuous before a fastener is inserted through the tab, the plastic liner comprising a series of sections spaced along the length of the canal and having ends thereof joined in field made joints, at least a plurality of the sections being free of field made joints extending along the length of the canal.

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27. (Currently amended) The open top gravity flow liquid transport canal of claim 26 wherein [the canal has a length providing a direction of flow in the canal and] the tabs extend along the length of the canal, the [liner] sections having ends spaced along the length of the canal and sides transverse to the length, the tab where the liner is continuous before a fastener is inserted through the tab being adjacent the center of the liner.

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28. (Currently amended) An open top gravity flow liquid transport canal having a length providing a direction of flow and having therein an impermeable plastic liner providing first and second ends spaced apart along the length of the canal and first and second sides transverse to the first and second ends and at least three tabs between the liner and the canal extending in the direction of flow, and several series of fasteners extending from adjacent the first liner end to adjacent the second liner end and projecting through the tab having a head between the tab and the liner for anchoring the liner to the canal, at least one of the tabs being spaced from the sides of the liner before the installation of a fastener, the plastic liner comprising a series of sections, at least a plurality of the sections being free of field made joints extending along the length of the canal.